



Saint Matthew

CATHOLIC CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026 + TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

Do nothing out of
selfishness or out of
vainglory; rather,
humbly regard others
as more important
than yourselves.

Philippians 2:3



MASS SCHEDULE

MASS

Mon., Tue., Thu., and Fri. | 8 a.m.
Wed. | 7 p.m. (Adoration at 6 p.m.)
Saturday Vigil | 5 p.m.
Sunday | 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m.

CONFESSION

Wednesday | 6 - 6:50 p.m.
Saturday | 3:30 - 4:45 p.m.
First Friday | 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

PARISH INFORMATION

CONTACT US:

📍 535 Sneed Road W, Franklin, TN 37069
✉ info@stmatthewtn.org
☎ (615) 646-0378
🌐 www.stmatthewtn.org
📱 @stmatthewtn

PASTOR:

Father Justin Raines

ASSOCIATE PASTOR:

Father Anthony Stewart

DEACON:

Bill Forte

PARISH SPOTLIGHT



LITURGY SCHEDULE

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

✠ Mikayla Yopp Honeycutt

8:30 a.m. Mass

✦ For the People of the Parish

11:00 a.m. Mass

✦ For Adam Cable

• Ezekiel 18:25-28

• Philippians 2:1-11

• Matthew 21:28-32

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

8:00 a.m. Mass

✠ Jack Mills

• Job 1:6-22

• Luke 9:46-50

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels

8:00 a.m. Mass

✠ Helen Sacramone

• Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

• John 1:47-51

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Saint Jerome

7:00 p.m. Mass

✠ Elsie Romeo

• Job 9:1-12, 14-16

• Luke 9:57-62

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus

8:00 a.m. Mass

✠ Jacque Wolken

• Job 19:21-27

• Luke 10:1-12

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

Holy Guardian Angels

8:00 a.m. Mass

✠ Phil Bradley

• Job 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5

• Matthew 18:1-5

✦ **Special Intention**

✠ *May they rest in peace*

TO RESERVE MASS INTENTIONS,

VISIT BIT.LV/SMMASSINTENTION

Theology & CULTURE

Sunday, Sept. 27

9:45-10:45 a.m.

Parish Conference Center

*Technology, AI, and Catholicism:
Exploring Magnifica Humanitas*

Led by Tommy Killackey



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU: COLUMBARIUM SURVEY

Our parish is exploring the possibility of building a columbarium—a sacred, permanent structure on our grounds for the placement of cremated remains. As we begin the planning and feasibility stages, your input is essential to help us understand the needs and desires of our congregation.

Please take a few minutes to complete our brief survey. Your feedback will guide our leadership team.

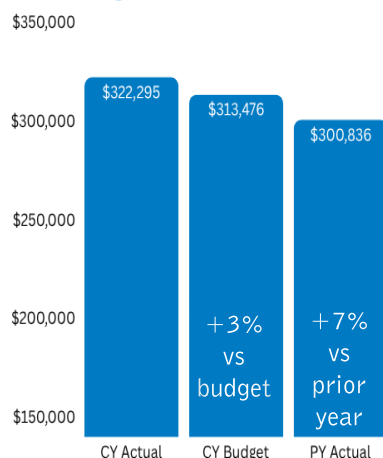
PLEASE TAKE OUR
**COLUMBARIUM
SURVEY**

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

~ FOR THE WEEK OF SEPT. 14-20 ~

REGULAR COLLECTIONS	\$30,578
FEAST OF SAINT MATTHEW	\$665

YTD Summary



Visiting, new, or looking to give?

Scan to make a gift now, or visit
stmatthewtn.org/church/giving



Second Collections

This Week:

St. Vincent de Paul

Next Week:

Building Maint. & Facility Improvements

Registered Parish Families: 1,344

SERVE THE CHURCH AS AN EMHC

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion training is being held for all current and interested ministers. Attendance is required for anyone who wishes to continue or begin serving as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. **Our final training session is today, Sunday, Sept. 27, at noon** in the church.

If you attended the session earlier this month, you do not need to attend this session. If you cannot attend either session and would like to serve as an EMHC, please contact Kelly Ott at kott@stmatthewtn.org to make other arrangements.

PASSION OF CHRIST PRAYER GROUP

The Passion of Christ Prayer Group invites you to join them this afternoon, Sunday, Sept. 27, at 3 p.m. in the chapel to pray the Way of the Cross, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and learn more about our Lord's Passion. This ministry's mission is to pray for our fellow Catholic brothers and sisters who have left the Church.

JOIN THE MEN'S CLUB

Join the Saint Matthew Men's Club, find community, and support many of Saint Matthew's great traditions! The Men's Club is a great way to meet other men, build friendships, and enjoy some fellowship while serving our parish. Monthly meetings are largely social, with food, drinks, and conversation, while also planning future events and discussing ways to support Saint Matthew. Often, meetings wrap up as men are playing cards, cornhole, or the like.

The Men's Club makes many of our parish traditions possible, including:

- *Oktoberfest*
- *Breakfast with Santa*
- *Fish Fries*
- *Easter Egg Hunt*
- *Parish Picnic*

Meetings are the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Cohan-Hansom Building. All parish men are welcome! See you this Thursday, Oct. 1!

FEEDING THE HOMELESS

Join the Saint Matthew Loaves & Fishes Ministry as they cook and serve lunch to individuals experiencing homelessness at Holy Name Parish Center on Wednesday, Oct. 7. To get involved with this ministry or to join the volunteer list, email Bill Thomson at bthomson7504@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY SUNDAY MOVED TO OCT. 11

Due to Mane Event, Community Sunday is moved back until Sunday, October 11. We need a few families to volunteer to serve coffee and doughnuts. Sign up to help at bit.ly/smccomsun.

LOVE TO COOK?

Our Youth Ministry team is looking for volunteers willing to cook dinner for our youth on Sunday evenings. Providing a home-cooked meal is a simple but meaningful way to support our teens and volunteers. Cooking volunteers will work with the Director of Youth Ministry to plan a menu, and the church will cover the cost of food. Thank you for helping feed our youth!



First Friday Adoration

October 2-3

Mass: 8 a.m.
Exposition: 8:30 a.m.
Benediction: 8 a.m. (Saturday)

Sign up for a time slot to ensure someone is present with our Lord at all times.
Confession available Friday 8:30-9:30 a.m.
bit.ly/smcffaact26



Blessing of the Animals

October 3
10 a.m.
Grotto

Pets must be kept on a leash or in a carrier





Principal's Pen



Dr. Simpson

Saint Matthew School celebrated the Feast Day of Saint Matthew this past Monday. We came together for Mass that morning, followed by a Eucharistic Procession throughout the school building. Father Raines visited each classroom, and all of our students had the opportunity to receive a blessing. Celebrating Saint Matthew's Feast Day is always such a blessing for our school community, as we are reminded of how Saint Matthew answered Jesus' call to "Follow Him." I know many of our students also spent time this week learning more about Saint Matthew, his life, and his journey toward becoming a saint in the classroom.



As we look ahead, we are hard at work preparing for Havana Nights, this year's Mane Event! Havana Nights is one of our biggest nights of the year, bringing our school community together to support the future of Saint Matthew School. With live and silent auctions, fun games, good food, and plenty of time to enjoy one another's company, it is a wonderful evening of community and celebration.

We would love to have you join us this coming Saturday! The event will be held outdoors, weather permitting, and the weather should be fantastic! Even if you don't have a student at SMS, we hope you'll come out for a fun night of festivities, fellowship, and support of our great school. We hope to see you there!

See the back of the bulletin to get your tickets for Havana Nights and to explore the great items you could go home with from the auctions!

SILENT AUCTION NOW LIVE

The silent auction for Havana Nights is officially open! Browse dozens of spectacular prizes and start bidding on experiences and items you won't want to miss, including golf with Father Anthony and Father Simpson, a pickleball party, vacation getaways, sporting events, and more!

Bidding closes at 9:30 p.m. on October 3. You don't have to attend Havana Nights to bid or win in the silent auction. So even if you can't join us for the event, you can still take part and support Saint Matthew School! Live auction items are available only to event attendees.

Scan to browse the auction and place your bids today!



CONNECT WITH SMS ON LINKEDIN

Saint Matthew School is officially on LinkedIn! We are excited to connect with families, alumni, community partners, and friends while sharing all the highlights of SMS. Follow us and help us grow our LinkedIn community at bit.ly/smstnlinkedin.



Saint Matthew Market

**ATTENTION VENDORS
SCAN HERE TO APPLY!**



HANDMADE
ITEMS

•ART•
•JEWELRY•
•FOOD•

SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 1

533 SNEED RD. W FRANKLIN, TN

Questions? Please email Jodie Richter at jodiefelix@hotmail.com

MINISTRY NEWS

OCTOBER LUNCH BUNCH REGISTRATION



Tues., Oct. 13 **Noon-2 p.m.**
Narthex **\$12**

October Theme:

H A L L O W E E N



All parishioners ages 55 and up are invited to come enjoy lunch, fellowship, and an afternoon of Bingo! Please register to reserve a meal. Bring a prize valued at \$10

bit.ly/smclboc26

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY GATHERING

Join our Prayer Shawl Ministry as they gather to knit and crochet shawls for those in need of comfort and prayer. Their next meeting is Monday, October 19, at 1 p.m. in the Parish Conference Center. Whether you are experienced or just want to learn, all are welcome—yarn is provided!

Have a finished shawl? Bring it with you or drop it by the church office to be blessed and shared with someone facing illness, grief, or hardship. To get involved or request a shawl, contact Mary at maryestarr25@gmail.com.

JOIN SAINT JOSEPH'S MEN

Saint Joseph's Men is a parish ministry enabling men to become better disciples, husbands, fathers, and members of our parish through the inspiration and model of Saint Joseph. Saint Joseph's Men meets Thursday nights and explores ways to learn and live out the faith. Visit bit.ly/smcsstjosephsmen.

Haiti Impact Report 2025-2026



The Saint Matthew Haiti Ministry benefits Our Lady of Miracles Catholic Church and School in Gobert, Haiti.

Thank you to everyone who donated this past fiscal year. Your efforts made all of this possible!

Learn more at:

bit.ly/smchaitiministry

387 students educated at OLOM School	68 First Communicants	42 teachers & workers employed at OLOM School	69,660 lunches served to OLOM students
1,032 parishioners served by OLOM Church	132 Baptisms	4 New classrooms for OLOM School	198 (15%) of Saint Matthew Catholic Church families donated
5 miles a day is how long some students walk to school	5 community health workers employed	\$141,944 donated by Saint Matthew Church and School	1 doctor employed
14 doors and 38 windows purchased for OLOM school	6 community watermen employed	\$12,500 in medicine and medical supplies provided	Countless amounts of love, hope, and prayers sent

TONY'S REFLECTION

THE TWO SONS

"Actions speak louder than words." This expression insinuates that people's actions display their real attitudes rather than what they say. In today's Gospel reading, Jesus presents us with two sons who correspond to the two groups of people Ezekiel describes in the first reading. If we add up these two groups, we have virtuous-looking ones who say they'll do God's work but end up not doing it. Then, we have the wicked ones who say they won't do God's work; however, they end up repenting and eventually do God's work. The tax collectors and prostitutes entering the Kingdom of God parallel the son who refused to go into the vineyard at first, but after a repentance period, he ends up doing God's work. Whereas the Pharisees resemble the son who promised to work but did not. It's important to emphasize that the tax collectors and prostitutes of whom Jesus speaks repented and changed their lives. Jesus is not saying that lifestyles of extortion and sexual promiscuity are compatible with the Kingdom of God. On the other side of the coin, the Pharisees that Jesus castigates were trained in virtue at a young age, but they gave lip service to acting out this virtue for God. Rather than doing God's work, they spent their time finding legalistic loopholes for their own gain.

Here, we are presented with one son who says he'll be faithful but does no work to prove it and another son who says he won't be faithful but then ends up doing God's work. What is the difference between these two sons? One single word could sum up their difference: Repentance. The son that repents is the one who did his father's will. In our self-absorbed culture, repentance invokes a chilling strike to our ego. Yet, Jesus' first words in the Gospel of Mark are, "Repent, the kingdom of God is at hand!" In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus started His public ministry with a call to repentance (Mt. 4:17). Depending on which translation, the word "repent" appears roughly 106 times in the Bible. Repentance, then, is a core motif of Jesus's ministry. Repentance is fully owning your sins, having sorrow for your sins, and experiencing a transformation of your whole person toward God.

Blessed Fulton Sheen makes a crucial distinction between repentance and remorse: "Repentance is not concerned with consequences. This is what distinguishes it from remorse, which is inspired principally by fear of unpleasant consequences." In short, remorse says, "I'm sorry I got caught." Repentance says, "I grieve that I have offended a God who loves me."

Many psychologists allude to the idea that we are a product of the environment we grew up in. Therefore, we need to fight against a sin-infested environment where personal entertainment and consumerism create an environment of indifference to heavenly things—like repentance. Repentance is most concretely experienced in the Sacrament of Confession. If you haven't been to confession in a month, let this jarring call of repentance be the catalyst that allows you to experience Christ's mercy in confession. Know this, which son will you choose to be?

FAITH & COMMUNITY



Join us for the 7th annual

FAMILY LITERACY NIGHT

Virtues in Picture Books

October 1, 2026
5:30-6:30pm
Aquinas Center
4210 Harding Pike

Literacy stations with the theme of
Virtues in Picture Books!

Led by local teachers and Aquinas
teacher candidates
This event is ideal for families with
children ages 2-10

RSVP for Family Literacy Night
2026





More information: www.aquinascollege.edu/outreach/literacy

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

The 40 Days for Life campaign is a focused

40-day prayer vigil for an end to abortion, and is happening now. While Planned Parenthood locations in Tennessee no longer perform abortions due to state pro-life laws, they continue to refer women to out-of-state abortion providers. Your prayers can help save precious preborn lives. The campaign runs through Sunday, Nov. 1. See special campaign events and register for a time slot to pray at 40daysforlife.com/nashville.



HOLY FAMILY GOLF CLASSIC

Sign up to play in the Holy Family Golf Classic on Monday, Oct. 12 (Columbus Day). Organized by the Knights of Columbus, funds raised are distributed throughout the year to their outreach programs including Habitat for Humanity, 40 Cans Food Drive, Coats for Kids, Disaster Relief, Pregnancy Support and more. Register at HolyFamilyGolfClassic.com.

RISE YOUTH MINISTRY

NEXT FORGE MEETING: OCT 4

All middle school students are invited to join Forge on Sunday, October 4, from 5:30–7:30 p.m. as they pursue honor through an evening of pizza, reflection, the Top Teen Wolf game, and free gym play! With the theme “The Wolf in Sheep’s Clothing,” come enjoy time together with friends while also growing in the faith. Drop-off is at the Cohan-Hansom Building, and pick-up is at the gym. RSVP at bit.ly/forgeoct26.



THIS WEEK AT RISE

About tonight’s RISE Night: What does it mean to call the Church the Bride of Christ? Join us at RISE for “2 to 1” as we explore the deep and intimate love God has for us and how Scripture uses the language of marriage to describe His relationship with His people. Through games, scripture, discussion, and reflection, come to know Jesus’ promises of love.

Teen Bible Study: Our Teen Bible Study is back up and running. All teens are invited to this intimate and faith-filled Bible study. Come early if your schedule allows for a more fruitful night.

2026-2027
Youth Ministry
Registrations

Contact
mmiller@stmatthewtn.org

RISE (H.S.)

Forge (M.S.)

BIBLE STUDY
Wednesdays

6-7 p.m. Adoration & Confession
7 p.m. Mass
7:30-8:30 p.m. Pizza and Bible Study

Come to as much or as little as you can.
All 9-12th graders welcome!

Register for RISE

HIGH SCHOOL FALL RETREAT REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Filius Dei Sum
I Am a Child of God
Soy hijo/a de Dios

HIGH SCHOOL
FALL RETREAT

At Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center
Featuring Speaker Alex Gotay, also known as Dr. G

En el Campamento Juvenil Católico y Centro de Retiros Gasper River
Con la participación del orador Alex Gotay, también conocido como Dr. G.

Hosted in partnership with

OCTOBER
OCTUBRE
23-25

Saint Matthew is partnering with several other youth groups for our 2026 Fall Retreat: *Filius Dei Sum*, or *I am a Child of God*. The cost is \$150 per child. Financial assistance is available by contacting Michaela. Scan the QR code for more details and to register.

MICHAELA MILLER
Director of Youth Ministry
mmiller@stmatthewtn.org
615-550-5102

**OFFICE HOURS:** Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**CHURCH:** 615-646-0378**SCHOOL:** 615-662-4044**PASTORAL STAFF**

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Bill Forte
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Rebecca Harding
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Michaela Miller
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Kelly Ott
Pastoral Associate
kott@stmatthewtn.org

JOIN US FOR
MANE EVENT
SAINT MATTHEW SCHOOL
HAVANA
October 3, 2026 *Nights*

Tickets and
Event Details



PRESENTING SPONSOR
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